

Tate Topa Tribal School

Box 199 • 7268 Hwy 57 • Fort Totten, ND 58335 • 701-766-1403

Dear Honorable Legislative Assembly,

Superintendent, Jackie Thompson and myself, Perry Kopp, Business Manager are writing this testimony for the support of House Bill 1565. Our District Representative, Collette Brown has been working with Tate Topa Tribal School since bringing forth this legislation and collecting our input and information for this proposal. Standing Rock Tribal School has also provided information on none countable students and Mr. Duane Poitra, Business Manager for Turtle Mountain schools has provided us with a wealth of knowledge on this Bill.

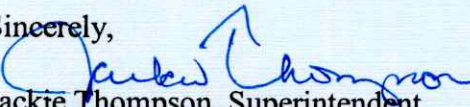
Tate Topa School Tribal School Board and administration fully support this legislation and do hope this bill will pass and provide funding for the students who don't qualify for federal funding and attend Tate Topa or other tribal schools. This legislation has been due to the tribal schools for some time as a student who generates no funding has the expenses for them picked up from other ISEP students who receive funding thus making a shortfall.

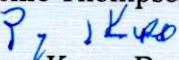
Due to wording in the ND century code our school is categorized as a private school of which there are no similarities funding or otherwise. Whether the funding is granted to the school directly or comes through the District #30 public school the funding would supply needed funded for the students presently generating nothing.

The non funded student also resides in the State of North Dakota and certainly should be awarded the funding any public school receives per student. Tate Topa has 46 non countable students and the information received from Standing Rock Schools is 33 and each student should generate about \$11,500.00 per year. Tate Topa stands to lose \$529,000.00 an amount that is very hard to absorb from other students funding!

These funds would also help our school and any other tribal school to be able to offer a competitive salary and benefits to recruit the few teachers available. With the information provided we would think you can understand our situation and your roll in funding students who live within the state. If any questions please feel free to contact Mrs. Thompson or myself at 701 766 1483 or Jackie.Thompson@k12.nd.us or Perry Kopp at 701 766 1470. Thank you so much for your time and we are honored that we are able to provide this information to our North Dakota Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,


Jackie Thompson, Superintendent


Perry Kopp, Business Manager